

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 19.5% (22,628) of these admissions reside in the Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District. 1% (284) of admissions from the Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 75% were male and 25% were female.
- 64% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 48% were white non-Latino, 30% were black non-Latino, 18% were Latino and 4% were other racial categories.
- 73% were never married, 9% were married, and 18% reported not to be married now.
- 33% had less than high school education, 49% completed high school, and 18% had more than high school education.
- 12% were employed.
- 39% were homeless.
- 20% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	37%	47%	4%	3%	5%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003							
Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	21,392	16,392	5,937	8,895	6,475	6,953	4,323
FY '96	22,209	16,591	5,863	8,560	6,415	7,513	4,451
FY '97	23,747	18,142	5,884	8,088	6,578	7,762	4,927
FY '98	23,978	17,651	5,767	7,304	5,449	8,828	5,700
FY '99	22,961	16,942	5,275	7,067	5,147	8,792	5,576
FY '00	22,810	16,591	5,030	6,593	4,654	9,073	5,750
FY '01	24,108	16,810	5,343	6,470	4,287	10,539	6,197
FY '02	24,532	16,136	4,902	6,404	4,221	11,642	7,613
FY '03	22,628	14,524	4,418	6,060	3,869	11,517	8,409

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Suffolk and Norfolk Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

